



Raymond Yuenger <rayyuenger@gmail.com>

Unit 507 January 2024 News

Silicon Valley Bridge <sanjosebridgeclub@pianola-mail.net>
Reply-To: Michael Ravera <michravera@yahoo.com>
To: Ray Yuenger <rayyuenger@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 16, 2024 at 1:42 PM

Silicon Valley Bridge

Dear Ray

Hi everyone! If you were expecting a video of Matt Parker explaining how your Math always seems to go wrong, this is the wrong E-mail. It's just I, Unit 507 President, Mich Ravera, here.

♠♥♦♣ **FREE BRIDGE** ♠♥♦♣ **FREE BRIDGE** ♠♥♦♣ **FREE BRIDGE** ♠♥♦♣

Our unit's wintertime potluck party is being held on Saturday, January 20 in the Recreation Room at the Campbell United Methodist Church, [1675 Winchester Blvd](#), the same location as the weekly club game. To sign up click [here](#). Set up is at 12:00 noon, food at 12:30, the game probably a bit after 1:00pm, and we will be out and cleaned up by 5:00. Click on food to see what everyone else is bringing. (If these links don't work, you can find them on <http://www.sjbridge.org>.) Last I looked, we were heavy on starches, but YOU can change that, if you want. The Unit will provide a meat dish or two. This event is free to Unit 507 members. The cost to Unit non-members is only \$10.

At the recently concluded Clambake Regional in Monterey: Arthur Zhou's team won a long-format Knockout. Yannie Zhao (with Chin Huang) managed a section top in Side Pairs. Philip Freiburger (with Fred Brown, formerly of Silicon Valley) earned an overall top (as well as a double section top) in mid-flight pairs, in which Anne Wilson, and Joanne Cornbleet had a section top. Jack Verson and his partner managed a Top Flight Pairs win and Xin Ge and partner won the premier Barometer Pairs. On winning Bracketed teams were: John Miller and Lynn Shannon's team; Brenda Hatton, Anne Wilson, and Joanne Cornbleet (with Pat Friesen); Jung Hu and Michael Fleisher (with Lisa Evans and Tim Benoit); Anna Ravenscroft and Alex Martelli (with Lucy Ballard and Virginia Dare); Carolyn Drozdiak's team, and Kumar Ramaiyer's team. Steve Cheng and Shankar Iyer had a stratification top and Michael Callahan (with Veronica Berlin) earned a section top in Gold Rush Pairs.

Also in Monterey, Miland Girkar and Shailesh Sampat won the Flight C North American Pairs District Qualifier.

At the Regional in Rancho Mirage **Stacie Bowman** and a pickup partner earned a section top in a mid-flight pairs.

To see more of the high placing players in last month's events click here:

<https://www.sjbridge.org/monthly-honor-roll>.

The San Jose Bridge Club has games every Wednesday at 11:00 AM at the Campbell United Methodist Church at [1675 Winchester Blvd.](#) in Campbell. Preregistration is REQUIRED for all games. You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4badaa29abff2-sanjose1> . Contact Lynn Yokel, if you have any questions.

We welcome Gloria Boone, Darina Kavanagh, and Narendra Kulkarni to our game, our League, and our Unit. We also welcome Yan Song to our Unit from the East Bay. We recognize Michele Liu for advancing to Advanced NABC Master and Kathleen Keener on achieving Gold Life Master status. Congratulations to both of them!

If you'd like to be certified as an ACBL Club director, the Unit will help you find and pay for a course and your test! Contact either me or Ray Yuenger to guide you through the process.

For games held in nearby Units, results, online games, and to find teachers and lessons, check out our website at <http://www.sjbridge.org>.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. But, our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. So, if you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com, I will send you an invitation and a meeting packet, usually a day or two (usually the Sunday) ahead of the meeting.

Edgar Kaplan, supposed "Co-Inventor" of the "2/1" system, is supposed to have once suggested, "Try to learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself." Not bad advice either for Bridge or for life. And, with that, I'll see you at the tables!

Sent from Silicon Valley Bridge

Sent using


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Raymond Yuenger <rayyuenger@gmail.com>

Unit 507 News February 2024

Silicon Valley Bridge <sanjosebridgeclub@pianola-mail.net>
Reply-To: Michael Ravera <michravera@yahoo.com>
To: Ray Yuenger <rayyuenger@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 13, 2024 at 10:35 PM

Silicon Valley Bridge

Dear Ray

Hello there! If you were expecting Super Bowl odds from the MGM Sports Book, you've opened the wrong E-mail again. It's just I, Unit 507 President, Mich Ravera, here.

At our Winter Unit Party, which was quite a feast, Lynn and Dianne Shannon won it all; Qing Lu and Norman Marks brought home the B strat honors; Dave Sisson and I, *servus tuus*, topped the C strat; and Shirley Foreman and Sharon Krawetz were the highest C pair in their direction. In the limited section, Pamela Meckenstock and Janet Meagher had a double stratification top and Gary Levinson and Richard Lordan topped the remaining strat. To see more of the high placing players in recent events click here: <https://www.sjbridge.org/monthly-honor-roll>.

♠♥♦♣ SPRING SECTIONAL ♣♦♥♠NT♠♥♦♣ SPRING SECTIONAL ♣♦♥♠

Our Spring Forward Sectional is scheduled for Friday through Sunday, April 26-28 at the PABC in Mountain View. For consistency, all of the morning sessions will begin at 10:00 AM. Toothpicks will be provided without extra charge to keep your eyes open on Friday. If you need a partner or teammates, for any of the events, sign up at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4badaa29abff2-sanjose#. If you need help navigating the sign up page (or removing your sign up after you have connected), contact me at michravera@yahoo.com.

♠♥♦♣ SPRING SECTIONAL ♣♦♥♠NT♠♥♦♣ SPRING SECTIONAL ♣♦♥♠

We welcome Bridget Gardiner, Alexandre Luong, Nihar Mohapatra and Pat Oconnor to our game, our League, and our Unit. We also welcome to our Unit Marcello Golfieri from a neighboring Unit, Christian Luong from the DC suburbs, and Erli Zhou from the Seattle area.

We also welcome Betty Russell to the game as Junior Master and congratulate Jay Baudler for advancing to Ruby Life Master.

The San Jose Bridge Club has games every Wednesday at 11:00 AM at the Campbell United Methodist Church at [1675 Winchester Blvd.](#) in Campbell. Preregistration is REQUIRED for all games. You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4badaa29abff2-sanjose1>. Contact Lynn Yokel, if you have any questions.

For games held in nearby Units, results, online games, and to find teachers and lessons, check out our website at <http://www.sjbridge.org>.

If you'd like to be certified as an ACBL Club director, the Unit will help you find and pay for a course and your test! Contact either me or Ray Yuenger to guide you through the process.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. If you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com, I will send you an invitation and a meeting packet a day or two ahead of the meeting (usually on the Sunday).

In Bridge, your primary difficulty in playing in Bracket One is that you have Bracket One opponents, whereas, in Bracket Eight, you have Bracket Eight teammates. Life is like that as well. And, with that thought, I'll see you at the tables!

Sent from Silicon Valley Bridge

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Raymond Yuenger <rayyuenger@gmail.com>

Unit 507 News March 2024

Silicon Valley Bridge <sanjosebridgeclub@pianola-mail.net>
Reply-To: Michael Ravera <michravera@yahoo.com>
To: Ray Yuenger <rayyuenger@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 1:12 AM

Silicon Valley Bridge

Dear Ray

Hello there! If you were expecting to see a computer-generated video of dyeing the Guadalupe River green, you've opened the wrong E-mail again. It's just I, Unit 507 President, Mich Ravera, here.

NT♠♥♦♣ SPRING SECTIONAL ♣♦♥♠NT♠♥♦♣ SPRING SECTIONAL ♣♦♥♠NT

Our Spring Forward Sectional is scheduled for Friday through Sunday, April 26-28 at the PABC in Mountain View. For consistency, all of the morning sessions will begin at 10:00 AM. Toothpicks will be provided without extra charge to keep your eyes open on Friday. If you need a partner or teammates, for any of the events, sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4badaa29abff2-sanjose#/>. If you need help navigating the sign up page (or removing your sign up after you have connected), contact me, at michravera@yahoo.com. You can find the game schedule in the flyer on our website.

NT♠♥♦♣SPRING SECTIONAL ♣♦♥♠NT♠♥♦♣ SPR ING SECTIONAL ♣♦♥♠NT

The North American Bridge Championships are going on in Louisville now through March 24. See <https://tournaments.acbl.org/schedule.php?sanction=2403001>

To see the high-placing players in recent events click here: <https://www.sjbridge.org/monthly-honor-roll>.

We welcome Nathaniel Black, Brian Daiuto, and Paul Kavanagh to our game, our League, and our Unit. We also welcome to our Unit John Micco from a neighboring Unit. We also welcome Yul Inn.

We also welcome Narendra Kulkarni and Natalie Toney to the game as Junior Masters; congratulate Pollyanna Pixton for advancing to Regional Master; Robert Baltz and Cadir Lee both for advancing two ranks in the same month to Bronze Life Master; and Bruce Luttrell for earning the title of Emerald Life Master.

The San Jose Bridge Club has games every Wednesday at 11:00 AM at the Campbell United Methodist Church at [1675 Winchester Blvd.](#) in Campbell. Preregistration is REQUIRED for all games. You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4badaa29abff2-sanjose1> . Contact Lynn Yokel, if you have any questions.

For games held in nearby Units, results, online games, and to find teachers and lessons, check out our website at <http://www.sjbridge.org>

If you'd like to be certified as an ACBL Club director, the Unit will help you find and pay for a course and your test! Contact either me or Ray Yuenger to guide you through the process.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. If you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com, I will send you an invitation and a meeting packet a day or two ahead of the meeting (usually on the Sunday).

Beldar Conehead would call it “hydrolyzed animal and vegetable matter between two starch planes.” Most of us would call it “a sandwich.” Bridge is ripe with shortcut names for various agreements. “She has values for some higher contract, but doubt as to the best strain or level and may have neither length nor values in clubs” sounds a bit like Beldar, but it is an explanation of the meaning of a bid. You may play this bid as the trigger bid of a convention known as “Checkback,” “New Minor Forcing,” or “Two-Way NMF.” Which convention you play will depend upon what the continuation bids mean. If you name the convention, in addition to not explaining the meaning of the bid to someone unfamiliar with the convention (or who may not play it the same way that you do), you have given your partner unauthorized information as to what your continuations will mean. In addition to explaining what Bridge agreements are legal to be played in which events, the [ACBL Convention Charts Booklet](#) gives many definitions of common Bridge terms that you can apply in both your explanation to your opponents and in trying to make agreements with your casual partners. And, with that thought, I'll see you at the tables!



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Silicon Valley Bridge,

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Raymond Yuenger <rayyuenger@gmail.com>

Unit 507 April 2024 News

Silicon Valley Bridge <sanjosebridgeclub@pianola-mail.net>
Reply-To: Michael Ravera <michravera@yahoo.com>
To: Ray Yuenger <rayyuenger@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 19, 2024 at 5:37 AM

Silicon Valley Bridge

Dear Ray

Hello there! If you expected to see a 25-year-old video of people at the Santa Clara Regional doing the Macarena, there is no surviving video. I've checked! It's just I, Unit 507 President, Mich Ravera, here.

NT♠♥♦♣ SPRING SECTIONAL ♣♦♥♠NT♠♥♦♣ SPRING SECTIONAL ♣♦♥♠NT

Our Spring Forward Sectional is scheduled for Friday through Sunday, April 26-28, at the Palo Alto Bridge Center in Mountain View. For consistency, all of the morning sessions will begin at 10:00 AM. If you need aid in getting your eyes to open on Friday, I'm told toothpicks will be available. If you need a partner or teammates for any of the events, sign up at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4badaa29abff2-sanjose#/. If you need help navigating the sign up page \(or removing your sign up after you have connected\), contact me at \[michravera@yahoo.com\]\(mailto:michravera@yahoo.com\).](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4badaa29abff2-sanjose#/)

♣♦♥♠NT SPRING SECTIONAL NT♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♠NT SPRING SECTIONAL NT♠♥♦♣

Our Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Campbell United Methodist Church, the same place where our weekly club games are held, on Saturday, July 27. Set up will be at 12:00, food at 12:30, the Annual Meeting (including some awards) at 1:00PM, game at about 1:13:13PM (but we WILL start without you, so don't miss the meeting). We need to be torn down, cleaned up, and on the way to the San Jose Giants game by 5:00PM. At least some part of the lunch will be provided by the Unit.

While we are on the subject of the Annual Meeting, it is time to find qualified candidates for the Unit Board. Please contact Unit Secretary Ray Yuenger to nominate someone whose judgment you trust. Nominations close at 11:59PM on Saturday, May 11, 2024. Requirements include Unit 507

Membership in good standing, a willingness to attend Board Meetings, and the lack of an intense dislike for pizza. This last requirement, however, can be waived by a supermajority Board vote ☺. We will have elections before the end of June, if the number of nominees exceeds the number of available positions.

At the recently completed North American Bridge Championships in Louisville: Erli Zhou won the Lebhar IMP Pairs with Xin Ge cracking the Top 10; Richard Reitman earned a fourth place in the Silver Ribbon Pairs; Cadir Lee earned a section top in the Open Pairs; Xin Ge and Sriram Ganesan were first and third, respectively in the Under-2500 Swiss teams; Gang Zhao and Milind Girkar & Shailesh Sampat all finished third in various North American Pairs events. Michael Bodell & Mike Cailean earned a flight top in Top Flight Swiss; Richard Reitman earned a section top in International Fund Pairs.

In Regional action, Stacie Bowman's team won a Bracketed teams in San Diego. At the Hollywood Magic online regional, John Stremel earned two section tops and Li Zhang & Jian Fang one each.

In Sectionals, Lynn Shannon & John Miller are winning events all over the place: Santa Rosa, Chico, Mountain View to name but a few. At the Mountain View Sectional, Ken Rosenfeld, Sriram Ganesan, Sadik Arf & Luen-Jyh Luo, John Stremel, Ken Rosenfeld, Frank Xie, Matthew Haag, Andrew Sinclair, Laura Walters, Kathy Ormseth, Betsy Wagner & Jan Pfiffner all won or had section tops in various pairs events with Norman Marks, John Hodges, Joel Koransky, and Ken Rosenfeld winning various team events.

Some time ago, looking for filler space as newsletter editor, I announced the first breaths of kibitzer Kyra Helmbold. Well, she's in college now, but still a member of our Unit and earned a strat top in Minnesota. At a limited sectional in Capitola, Bill Roman & Monica Bacon-Proctor won a pairs event and Kathy Vita & Jan Pfiffner a section top. To see other high placing players in other recent events click here: <https://www.sjbridge.org/monthly-honor-roll>.

We welcome Peggy Bradley, Hank Hsu, Koteeswaran Kumar, Kiran Rane, and Barbara Silverstein to our game, our League, and our Unit. We also welcome Rollo Parsons to the game as Junior Master.

The San Jose Bridge Club has games every Wednesday at 11:00 AM at the Campbell United Methodist Church at [1675 Winchester Blvd.](#) in Campbell. The game on May 8 will be a "Rainbow STaC" which pays in gold, red, silver, and **black** masterpoints. Preregistration is REQUIRED for all games. You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4badaa29abff2-sanjose1> . Contact Lynn Yokel, if you have any questions.

For games held in nearby Units, results, online games, and to find teachers and lessons, check out our website at <http://www.sjbridge.org>

If you'd like to be certified as an ACBL Club director, the Unit will help you find and pay for a course and your test! Contact either me or Ray Yuenger to guide you through the process.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. This next one is in person instead of online. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. If you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com, I will send you an invitation and a meeting packet a day or two ahead of the meeting (usually on the Sunday).

As our sectional approaches, I need to remind everyone who frequently plays online that it is a requirement in face-to-face games to announce your opening 1NT range, regardless of what it is. If it varies a little depending upon seat and vulnerability, announce what you play at that seat and vulnerability. And one more thing: can we have your true range, please? If you regularly use your judgment to upgrade some 14-counts or to downgrade some 18-counts, please let your announcement reflect that. It isn't illegal to play 14-to-18 (or 10-to-14) if you can handle it. And, with that thought, I'll see you at the tables!



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Silicon Valley Bridge,

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Raymond Yuenger <rayyuenger@gmail.com>

May 2024 Unit 507 News

Silicon Valley Bridge <sanjosebridgeclub@pianola-mail.net>
Reply-To: Michael Ravera <michravera@yahoo.com>
To: Ray Yuenger <rayyuenger@gmail.com>

Tue, May 21, 2024 at 6:27 PM

Silicon Valley Bridge

Dear Ray

Hello there! If you were expecting the Summer Concert Series, you've opened the wrong e-mail again. It's just I, Unit 507 President Mich Ravera, here.

At our recently completed Spring Forward Sectional, teams with Will Watson and Ron Baron, Norman Marks, Lynn Bartz and Ken Imboden were first in their brackets. In open pairs games, Xin Ge and Sriram Ganesan each had stratification tops, while section tops went to Rajeev Gupta & Manoj Thawani; Kayden Ge; Norman Marks & Michael Fleisher; Aravind Alwan; and Brandon Ge & Xin Ge. In the Silver Rush Pairs, Michael Callahan had a first place finish, with section tops going to Li Zhang & Jian Fang and Alicia Breyer (twice).

To see other high placing players in other recent events click here: <https://www.sjbridge.org/monthly-honor-roll>.

♣♦♥♠NT ANNUAL MEETING NT♠♥♦♣♦♥♠NT ANNUAL MEETING NT♠♥♦♣

Our Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Campbell United Methodist Church, the same place where our weekly club games are held on Saturday, July 27. Set up will be at 12:00, food at 12:30, the Annual Meeting (including some awards) at 1:00PM, Game at about 1:13:13PM (but we WILL start without you, so don't miss the meeting). We need to be torn down, cleaned up, and out the door by 5:00PM. The Unit will provide some great bar-b-cue. Side dishes will be potluck, but remember that this is lunch time in deciding what to bring. An online sign up will be available as the time comes closer, so that we know how much bar-b-cue to order and so that other people don't try to outdo your prize-winning dish. Oh, yeah, the event is free to Unit 507 members and our guests.

♣♦♥♠NT ANNUAL MEETING NT♠♥♦♣♦♥♠NT ANNUAL MEETING NT♠♥♦♣

The Sacramento Regional starts next Monday, May 27 and runs through the following Sunday, June 2. It includes the Capitol Swiss Teams as a Premier event.

We welcome Christopher Chen, Robert Howard, Joan Pinder, and Liao Zhang to our game, our League, and our Unit. We also welcome Judith Gouvea to the game as Junior Master. We also are pleased to announce Neeru Mehra as Sectional Master; Susan Dietz and Wanwan Ren were promoted to Silver Life Masters; Xin Ge advanced to Ruby Life Master; and Sadik Arf and Rajeeva Sharma earned the title of Gold Life Masters. Congratulations to all!

The San Jose Bridge Club has games every Wednesday at 11:00 AM at the Campbell United Methodist Church at [1675 Winchester Blvd.](#) in Campbell. Preregistration is REQUIRED for all games. This Wednesday's game on May 22 will be a club championship – Win extra masterpoints for no extra fees! You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4badaa29abff2-sanjose1> . Contact Lynn Yokel, if you have any questions.

For games held in nearby Units, results, online games, and to find teachers and lessons, check out our website at <http://www.sjbridge.org>

If you'd like to be certified as an ACBL Club director, the Unit will help you find and pay for a course and your test! Contact either me or Ray Yuenger to guide you through the process.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. Almost all the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. If you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com, I will send you an invitation and a meeting packet a day or two ahead of the meeting (usually on the Sunday).

Remember, if a call systemically requires partner to make a particular call, if possible, it is a “puppet” to that call and normally requires an **alert**. If it actually shows length in a single suit, it is a “transfer” and normally requires an **announcement** of the suit in which it shows length. If it asks a question, it is an “inquiry” or “asking” bid and sometimes requires an **alert**. If it simply requests partner to make a call (usually the cheapest) that allows you to further describe your hand, it is a “relay” and requires an **alert**. And, with that thought, I'll see you at the tables!



Raymond Yuenger <rayyuenger@gmail.com>

June 2024 Unit 507 News

Silicon Valley Bridge <sanjosebridgeclub@pianola-mail.net>
Reply-To: Michael Ravera <michravera@yahoo.com>
To: Ray Yuenger <rayyuenger@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 19, 2024 at 10:57 PM

Silicon Valley Bridge

Dear Ray

Hello there! If you were expecting a video detailing the history of Yacht Rock, you've opened the wrong e-mail again. It's just I, Unit 507 President, Mich Ravera, here.

♠♥♦♣NT ANNUAL MEETING NT♠♥♦♣♠♥♦♣NT ANNUAL MEETING NT♠♥♦♣

Our Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Campbell United Methodist Church, the same place where our weekly club games are held, on Saturday, July 27. Set up will be at 12:00, food at 12:30, the Annual Meeting (including some awards) at 1:00PM, game at about 1:13:13PM (but we WILL start without you, so don't miss the meeting). We need to be torn down, cleaned up, and out the door by 5:00PM. The Unit will provide some great Barbecue. Side dishes will be pot luck, but remember that this is lunch time in deciding what to bring. An online sign up is available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45AFA923A0F9C61-50044032-unit#/> , so that we know how much Barbecue to order and so that other people don't try to outdo your humus. And ... oh, yeah, the event is free to Unit 507 members and our guests!

NT♠♥♦♣ ANNUAL MEETING NT♠♥♦♣NT♠♥♦♣ ANNUAL MEETING ♠♥♦♣NT

At the recently completed Capitol Regional in Sacramento, teammates Brenna Wundram and Lynn Bartz along with Ken Rosenfeld and Alex Martelli won their team bracket as did teams consisting of Anne Wilson, Brenda Hatton, and teammates who won both RR and KO team events. Both the pairs Andy Scott and Irene Hashfield and Xin and Kayden Ge each won two regional pairs events. The Ges did it both fast and normally timed. John Stremel and Michael Callahan each were in a pair that won

an event. Rajeev Jog and Niraj Jain won a pairs event together. John Miller and Lynn Shannon, who managed a top 20 for the tournament, as well as Leila Sink and John Hoffman were on winning RR teams. Jen Ravera and I, *servum tuum*, even managed a section top in Side Pairs.

To see other high placing players in other recent events click here: <https://www.sjbridge.org/monthly-honor-roll>.

North of the border, the North American Bridge Championships run Thursday, July 18 through the second following Sunday, July 28 in Toronto.

A little closer to home, Wednesday through Sunday, July 10 to July 14, the Firecracker non-life master Regional and open Sectional will be held in Mountain View. This is your chance, new players, to earn **gold points**.

The All Western Championships Regional runs Tuesday, August 27 through Monday, September 2.

We welcome Diane Goldberg, Demian Li, and David Silverstein to our game, our League, and our Unit. We are pleased to announce Monica Bacon-Proctor, Rishabh Singh, and Manoj Thawani as new NABC Masters; Aravind Alwan and Brandon Ge were promoted to Bronze Life Masters; Judy Kaplan advanced to Silver Life Master; Robert Allen and Richard DeVaul achieved Ruby Life Master; and Rick Jasper earned the title of Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all!

The San Jose Bridge Club has games every Wednesday at 11:00 AM at the Campbell United Methodist Church at [1675 Winchester Blvd.](#) in Campbell. Preregistration is REQUIRED for all games. Wednesday's game on July 26 will be a face-to-face NAP qualifier. You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4badaa29abff2-sanjose1> . Tuesday, July 18 and 25 will be BBO online NAP qualifiers. Contact Lynn Yokel, if you have any questions.

For games held in nearby Units, results, online games, and to find teachers and lessons, check out our website at <http://www.sjbridge.org>

If you'd like to be certified as an ACBL Club director, the Unit will help you find and pay for a course and your test! Contact either me or Ray Yuenger to guide you through the process.

Our regular monthly Unit Board meeting is usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. Because of summer conflicts, our next meeting is on Tuesday, July 16, 2024. Almost all of the meetings are open to all Unit 507 members. If you contact me at michravera@yahoo.com, I will send you an invitation and a meeting packet a day or two ahead of the meeting (usually on the preceding Sunday). But, be careful about attending. Some people have attended a few meetings and become our Board Members! You'll hear more about that at the Annual Meeting.

When I got into Duplicate Bridge less than 30 years ago, strong **1♣** systems were “Baby Chart” and Weak 2s with bad 5-card suits required a pre-alert and “Strong” **1 NT** required no alert. There are at least two reasons that all **1 NT** openers are announced. One protects the bidders; the other protects those who might want to overcall. The announcement protects the bidders by not giving their opponents a ready-made, but unethical and illegal, method of helping to decide to compete, penalize, or stay silent simply by asking or not asking the range. The announcement protects the overcallers against those who play “15-to-17”, so that they don't have to alert, but who open basically every 13-count that they see. It's not illegal to play a 13-to-17 opening **1 NT** If you've the tools to avoid (or don't mind) playing game with barely half the high cards, feel free. I've commented “everyone thinks that the methods that they play shouldn't require an alert” to which National Tournament Director Matt K added “except those who want to alert, so that they can be sure that their partners remember.” And, with that thought, I'll see you at the tables!



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Silicon Valley Bridge,

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